

# 2024 NWDLL Fall/Winter Ball Rules

## **I. Overview of The 2024 Winter Ball Season**

- Divisions: Juniors, Majors, Minor A, Minor B, & Minor C
- The league will form the teams and provide uniforms (jersey & hat).
- Games will be played at Northwest Downey Fields, Juniors will play at BGVF
- Game schedules will be prepared by NWDLL Board.
- For Junior, Majors, Minor A, & Minor B games the league will provide 1 umpire for each game, regardless of which team is listed as home team.
- Each Manager is required to carry a copy of these rules at all times.
- Postponed games due to weather or any other reason, in any division will not be made up.
- Players, parents, coaches and any other spectators are to only make positive remarks to their own team. No negative comments are to be made to the opposing team. Parents or any spectators may NOT make any comments to the game's umpire(s). Chattering is allowed by the team on defense with the exception of the word "Swing".

## **II. Playing Rules**

### **Juniors, Majors, Minor A, & Minor B:**

- Playing rules will be followed as according to the Little League Playing Rules found in the 2024 Little League Rule Book.
- Dropped third strike will be enforced for Juniors, Majors & Minor A, dropped third strike is NOT in effect for Minor B.
- Substitutions: No player should sit the bench for two consecutive innings.
- Pitching: A player may pitch for two innings only. Pitch count will still be enforced if the player reaches the maximum pitch allowance for the day. Once a player pitches, he may not go to the position of catcher. Once a pitcher is pulled from the mound, he may not return to the mound. Minor A, League age 11-year-olds are permitted to pitch
- Catchers: A player may not play the position of catcher for more than three innings. However, once a catcher receives one pitch in a third inning as catcher they are no longer eligible to pitch in that game. Catchers must be properly equipped, including an athletic cup and throat protector.
- **Batting:** The batting order will be consecutive in all divisions. For all divisions, the half inning is complete once an offensive team scores five runs or three outs, whichever occurs first.
- **Base Running:** Juniors, Majors, & Minor A all bases are open, in Minor B home is closed, meaning a baserunner can't steal home or advance on a pass ball by the catcher.
- Time Limits: Juniors, Majors, Minor A, Minor B division –two hour drop dead
- **NO ON DECK BATTERS.**
- **Fields –** Preparing the fields and taking down the fields shall be a joint responsibility of both the home (prep) and visiting (teardown) teams.
- **Pre-Game warm-up** will only be allowed in the outfield.
- **Game Balls -** NWDLL shall supply the umpire with two (2 new) game balls before the start of the game.
- No more than 1 manager and 2 approved coaches will be allowed in the playing area including the dugout & field.
- **Adult base coaches** are allowed at both first and third base, as long as there is at least 1 approved coach in the dugout.
- **Players** may coach a base but must wear a helmet at all times.
- **ROSTERED PLAYERS MUST WEAR A CATCHERS'S MASK & HELMET WITH THROAT GUARD AND A CUP IN ORDER TO WARM UP A PITCHER**
- **COACHES MAY WARM UP A PITCHER IN THE BULLPEN OR ON THE FIELD BEFORE OR DURING A GAME.**
  
- **Managers -** Must call their NWDLL Division Representative 24 hours in advance if a game cannot be made.

### **Minor C:**

- Playing rules will be followed as according to the Little League Playing Rules found in the 2024 Little League Rule Book.
- Substitutions: Each of a team's players present at a game must sit out one (1) inning before any of the team's players sit out a second inning. No player can play any one position more than two innings in one game.
- Pitching in the Rookie Division is done by an Adult Manager or Coach from the current batting team. **THE USE OF A PITCHING MACHINE DURING THE GAME WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.** The use of solid core (hard) baseballs will not be allowed during game play, only Flex-baseballs will be used
- The defensive team will consist of the conventional nine (9) positions, only nine players are allowed on the field
- Batting Order: The team batting order shall consist of all eligible players present. Players shall bat in order through the entire roster, regardless of which players constitute the defensive team at any time. **Teams will play 3 outs or once through the line up (whichever comes first).**
- **The batter will be allowed up to five (5) pitches.** If the ball is not put into play within five pitches, then the ball shall be hit off the tee.
- Base stealing is prohibited. A runner may not advance on a wild pitch or passed ball. All runners must stop at first unless the ball went to the outfield. Runners may advance one base on an overthrow at their own risk. The ball is dead when the defensive team has control of the ball within the inner infield area.
- Continuous, uncontrolled running of the bases shall not be allowed. It should be understood by Managers and coaches that difficulty in making defensive plays is not reason to allow base runners to run "unrestricted."
- Safety First-Baserunners should avoid making contact with defenders.
- The batter is out when; He/she hits a foul ball above the helmet and the ball is caught by a defensive player, or gets another pitch. He/she successfully puts the ball into play and is put out under normal rules of play, at that time the Batter will be removed from the base.
- Every effort shall be made by the Managers and coaches of both teams to maintain control of the game. Each play and situation for offensive and defensive play must be treated as a learning experience.
- Time Limits: one hour thirty minutes-drop dead.
- Fields – Preparing the fields and taking down the fields shall be a joint responsibility of both the home (prep) and visiting (teardown) teams.
- Defensively – 2 coaches are allowed on the field.
- Offensively - All season-one coach pitching, one coach helping the batter, a first base coach, and third base coach.
- 5 coaches max per team involved in the game.
- Managers - Must call their NWDLL League Representative 24 hours in advance if a game cannot be made.

